



Sonoma
Water

FY 2022-2023 Proposed Rates Sanitation Districts and Zones

Grant Davis
General Manager

Lynne Rosselli
Administrative Services
Division Manager



Requested Board Actions

- Adopt five (5) Resolutions overruling objections, adopting a report on charges for sewage services, modifications to rate structures and confirming charges for 1) Sonoma County Water Agency Sanitation Zones Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup, Geyserville, Penngrove, and Sea Ranch; and County Sanitation Districts 2) Occidental, 3) Russian River, 4) South Park, and 5) Sonoma Valley.
- Adopt Ordinances setting sewer service charges, on behalf of Sonoma County Water Agency Sanitation Zones calling for collection on the tax roll for all Zones, and remaining in effect until modified by the Board, and making findings and determination of exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

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- Authorize the Sonoma County Water Agency General Manager to implement a Sanitation Rate Relief Program on behalf of the four Sonoma County Water Agency Sanitation Zones and four County Sanitation Districts and expend up to \$1 million annually from Sonoma Water's General Fund to fund the program.

Business Model

- Long-term financial plans set target rates for next 5+ years
- Capital investments goal: Reinvest at rate of depreciation
- Use rate increases above CPI for capital investments
- Keep routine operations and maintenance expenses at CPI



FY 2023/2024 Proposed Rate Increases

Zone	Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup		Geyserville		Penngrove		Sea Ranch	
Percent increase	8.5%		8.7%		8.0%		8.9%	
FY23-24 amount	\$1,246	\$98	\$1,424	\$114	\$1,974	\$146	\$1,524	\$124

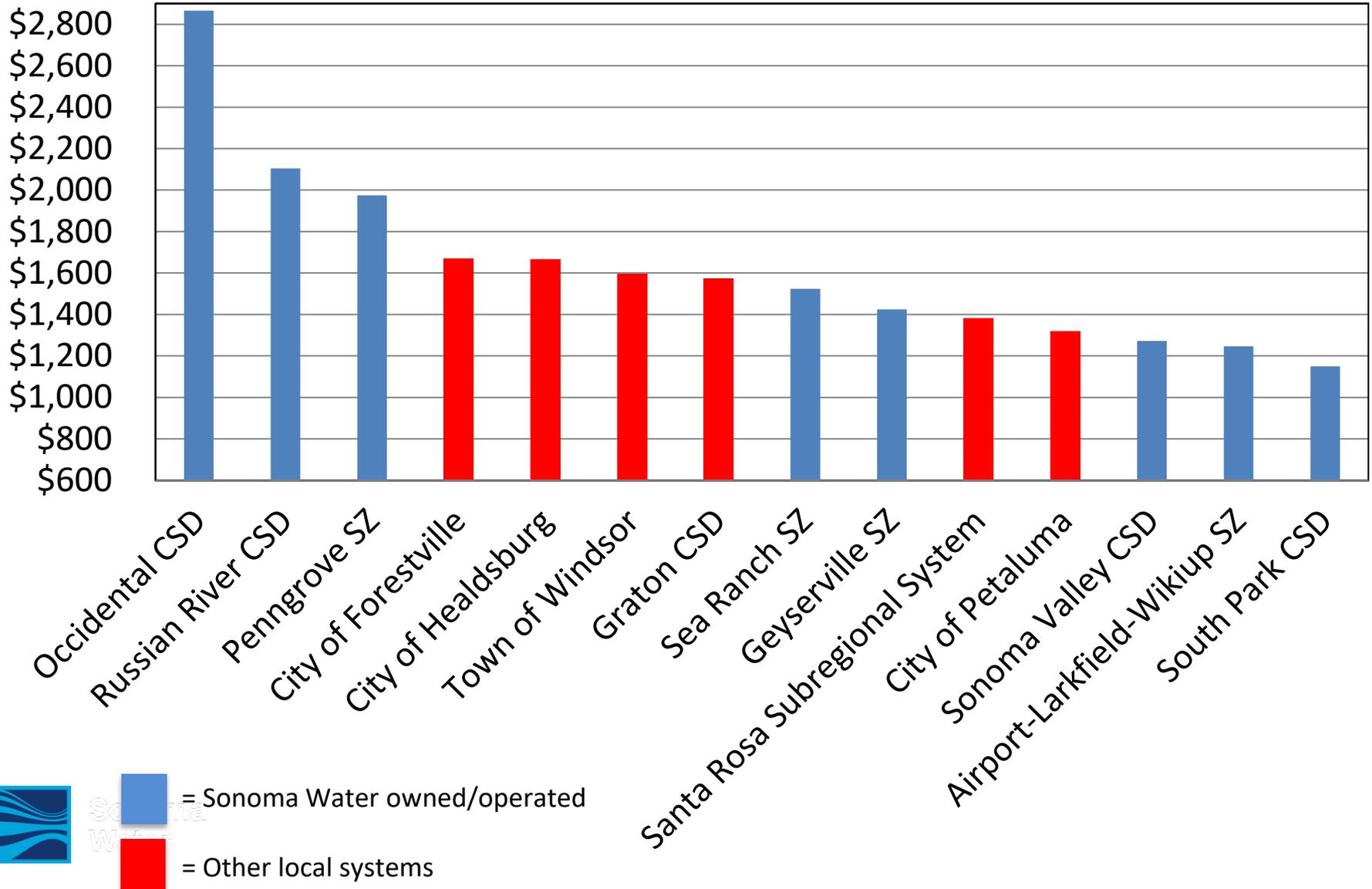
District	Occidental		Russian River		Sonoma Valley		South Park	
Percent increase	4.9%		8.9%		6.0%		3.5%	
FY23-24 amount	\$2,866	\$134	\$2,104	\$172	\$1,272	\$72	\$1,150	\$38



Note: FY 23-24 amount = Annual charge per Equivalent Single Family Dwelling and dollar increase over FY 22-23.

Annual Charges for Sewer Service - 2023

Based on 200 gallons per day per Equivalent Single Family Dwelling



Rate Calculation – Sanitation Zones

Zone	Airport-Larkfield- Wikiup	Geyserville	Penngrove	Sea Ranch
Rate Increase	8.5%	8.9%	8.0%	8.9%
Operating Revenue	5,040,000	470,000	1,003,000	918,000
Operating Expenses	4,773,000	896,000	1,171,000	791,000
Net Revenue	267,000	(426,000)	(168,000)	127,000
Grants/Loans/ Contributions	150,000	800,150	0	0
FY23-24 Capital Improvements	80,000	405,000	5,000	55,000
FY25-28 Projects	5,472,000	1,799,000	12,860,000	200,000
	Replace Main Electrical Breaker & Filter Modules, Sludge Removal, Piping Improvements, Recycled Water Pipeline Improvements	Force Main Replacement, Sludge Removal, Headworks Equipment Replacement	Replace/Upsize Force Main, Petaluma TMDL Collection System Repairs	Future Capital Replacements, Replace Siding on Multiple Buildings

Rate Calculation – Sanitation Districts

District	Occidental	Russian River	Sonoma Valley	South Park
Rate Increase	4.9%	8.9%	6.0%	3.5%
Operating Revenue	414,000	6,267,000	19,627,000	4,627,000
Operating Expenses	1,182,000	5,802,000	16,047,000	3,350,000
Net Revenue	(768,000)	465,000	3,580,000	1,277,000
Grants/Loans/Contributions	2,550,000	1,663,000	4,200,000	0
FY23-24 Capital Improvements	510,000	2,105,000	13,777,000	975,400
FY25-28 Projects	11,425,000	52,362,000	24,582,000	12,865,300
	Lift Station Automation Project, Occidental - Graton Pipeline Project, Pond Treatment Upgrades	Force Main, Headworks, Lift Stations Upgrade Project, Underground Storage Tank Removal, Recycled Water Truck Fill Station, Water Quality Lab Remodel	Replace Trunk Mains, Pumping & Piping Upgrades, Recycled Water Line Replacement, Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Creek Bank Repair, Disinfection Upgrades, Recoat Treatment Plant Basins	Santa Rose Ave Sewers, Collection System Replacement Project, Planning for Transfer to City of Santa Rosa

Sanitation Rate Relief Program

Requesting Board authority for Sanitation Rate Relief Program for Zones and Districts

Why?

- People with reduced or fixed income may struggle to pay sanitation bills
- Federal-state Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program is extremely challenging to administer (not designed for our twice-annual payment system) and application process can be a barrier
- Local agencies (Napa and Novato sanitation districts) have successful models

Who?

- Residential customers who own and live in their home as their primary residence
- Current participant in the PG&E CARE Program, or
- Total income of all persons living in the home of 60% or less of the area median family income
- § 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that provide housing to low-income renters



Sanitation Rate Relief Program

How much?

- 50% of FY 23-24 sewer bill for eligible customers
- Up to \$1 million from Sonoma Water General Fund

How will people be informed?

- Website, social media, press release, outreach through social service agencies and non-profit organizations

Next steps?

- Seeking Board authorization for program
- Applications accepted upon Board approval through July 10
- Applications reviewed for eligibility and information provided to assessor's office in early August
- Sewer charge on bill for eligible ratepayers will reflect 50% adjustment

Grants and Loans

	Grant/Bond/Loan Awards (Dollars) past 5 Years	Grant/Loan Applications Pending (Dollars)
Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup SZ	35,606	-
Geyserville SZ	45,609	1,437,000
Occidental CSD	1,400,000	-
Penngrove SZ	531,116	-
Russian River CSD	5,718,698	42,089,915
Sea Ranch SZ	3,158	-
South Park CSD	30,179	-
Sonoma Valley CSD	18,194,142	1,323,000
Total	25,958,508	44,849,915

FY 2022-2023 Sanitation Zone Highlights



Airport: Microbe membrane filtering system modifications



Penngrove: FEMA-funded lift station flood resiliency project



Geyserville: Grant-funded generator and new aerators



Sea Ranch: Influent pipeline creek crossing and hazard mitigation planning

FY 2022-2023 Sanitation District Highlights



Sonoma Valley: Sewer trunk main replacements, headworks project



Russian River: FEMA-funded clarifiers seismic retrofit, headworks, lift station/force main project (State grant)



South Park: Multi-year transition of O&M to Santa Rosa, collection system replacements



Occidental: Hauling wastewater to Airport Treatment Plant, design of pipeline to Graton CSD

Public Outreach in 2023

- Three plant tours scheduled/held at Sonoma Valley and Russian River treatment plants
- Annual newsletters with Proposition 218 fee information mailed to customers in all districts/zones
- Social media provides important messages with our customers – thanks for sharing!



25 likes [Share](#)

sonoma_water How are you weathering these storms? Our crews are out in the field making sure our wastewater systems are operating well. This much rain can inundate sewer systems with too much flow from stormwater.

Here are pictures one of our Sonoma Water crewmembers took out at Laughlin Lift Station today, and another one at the flooded Armstrong Woods. They did bypass pumping to divert excess water into a manhole. This is necessary to keep the Russian River County Sanitation systems operating well during this time of high flow and prevent a sanitation sewage overflow.

#water #sanitation #infrastructure #safety #flood



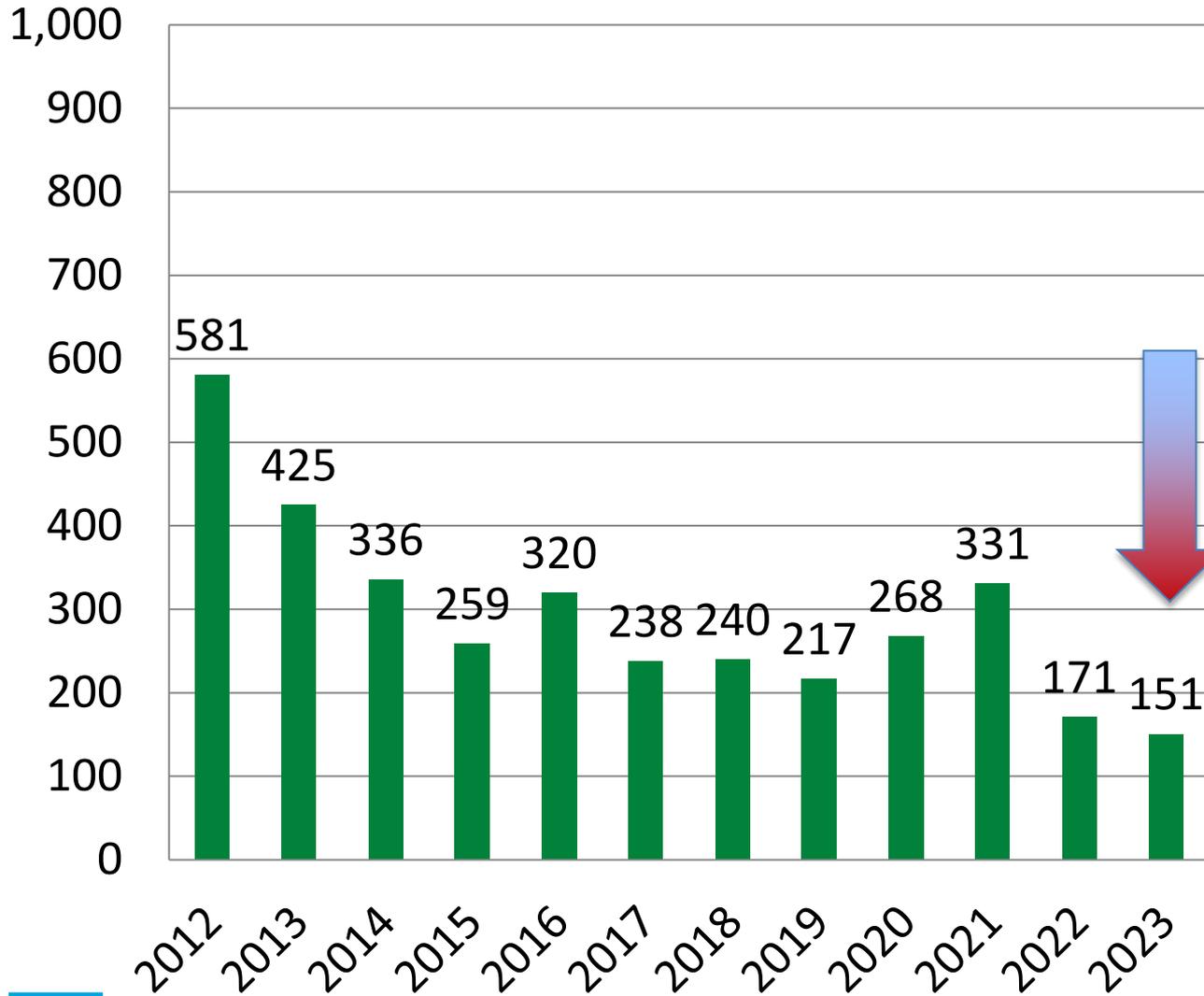
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Water-use efficiency programs

- Rebate programs available to homeowners and to business owners
- Efficiency upgrades for low-income residents



Total Protest Returns



Range

Sea Ranch - 0.16%

Occidental - 3.03%

Average - 1.27%



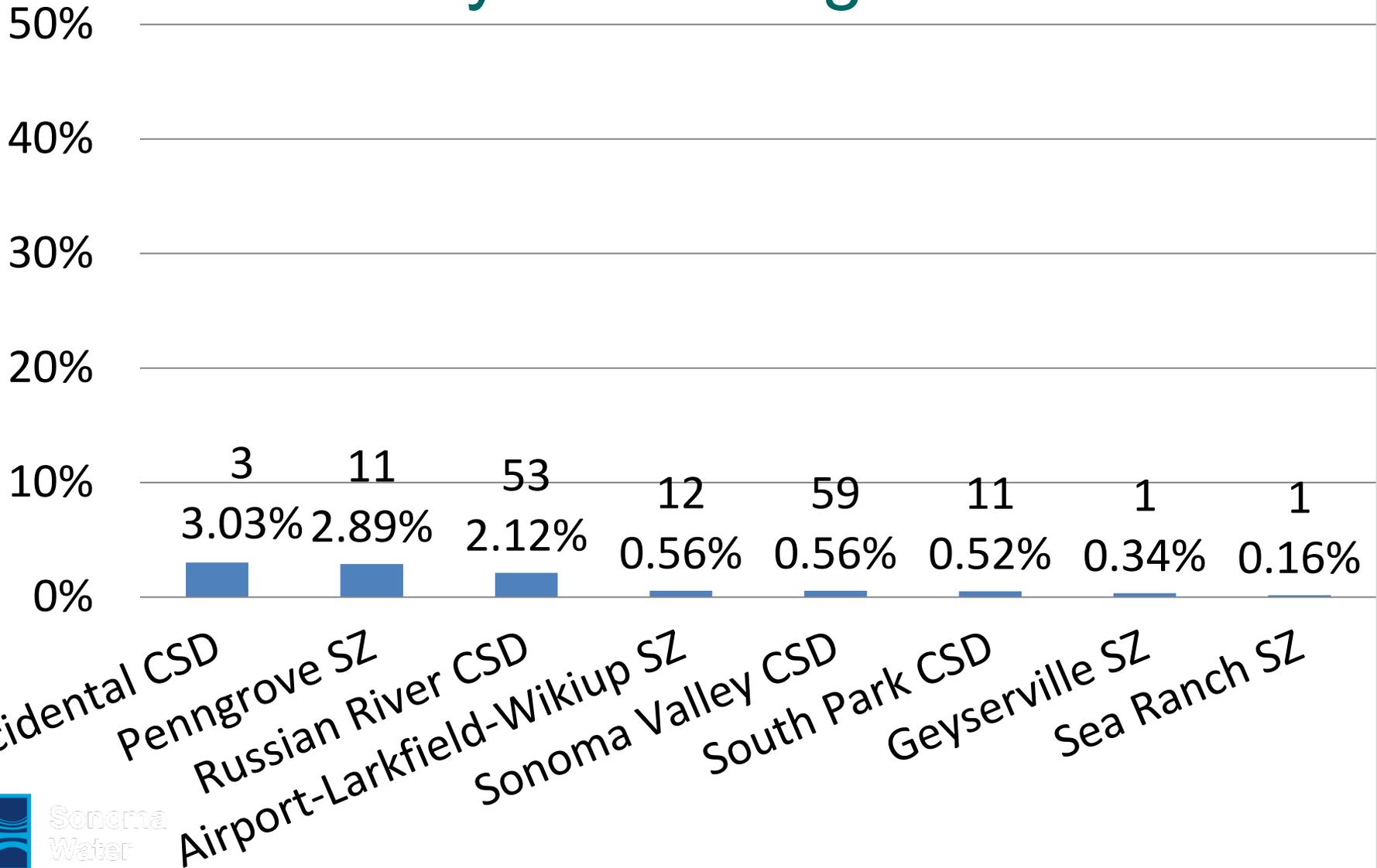
Total Number of
Equivalent Single
Family Dwellings:
31,426

Total Number of
Parcels:
18,693



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Proposition 218 Protest Data by Percentage



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